

9 BALGAY PARK BRIDGE - PROPOSED "OUR HERITAGE LOTTERY BID" (AN485-2004)

The existing Balgay Bridge dates back to 1879 and is a Listed structure. The bridge has suffered from some vandalism in recent years and is currently closed. An inspection has been undertaken by the City Engineer in order to both restore the bridge and bring it up to a standard where it acts as a connective footbridge between Balgay Hill and the Balgay Cemetery.

The Leisure and Arts Department have taken the opportunity to liaise with local groups such as the "Friends of Balgay", West End Community Council and the Heritage Lottery in respect of the potential of seeking external funding to both restore the bridge and enhance the surrounding environment thus improving not only the safety and security of the bridge but the footpath that runs from Victoria Park to Glamis Road.

The project is seen as an early Action Plan in the formulation of a larger Master Plan for Greater Balgay which takes into account Lochee Park, Victoria Park, Balgay Hill and Balgay Cemetery as well as the future of the Mills Observatory with the potential of providing a resource for the Park as well as a Centre of Excellence for astronomy. The maximum value of external funding to be awarded under Our Heritage is £50,000 so it is proposed that the balance of the money of approximately £50,000 be provided through the Leisure and Arts Capital Budget 2005/2006.

It is recommended that it be remitted to the Director of Leisure and Arts to take the project forward and formally bid for Our Heritage money and, subject to the success of the bid, that tenders are brought forward for consideration by the Committee.

It is further recommended that the Director of Leisure and Arts bring back a Master Plan for "Greater Balgay" which includes Victoria Park, Lochee Park, Balgay Hill and Balgay Cemetery.